FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 APRIL 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Over 4,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded, 4 Iraqi brigades were "destroyed," and a "great number" of Iraqis were captured in a "three-pronged" Iranian "blitz" offensive on the Al-Faw peninsula late 28 April, according to IRNA reports and a Tehran radio report citing a military statement. The reports said the Iranians have "established" their positions in the area after advancing more than 2 km on the peninsula, while the Iraqis have been "paralyzed" as a result of the "surprise" attack. In other fighting, an Iranian military commander cited by IRNA claimed that Iran repulsed an Iraqi attack in the southern Majnun Islands area and launched a counteroffensive that inflicted "hundreds" of casualties upon the Iraqis, while an earlier Tehran radio report alleged that a second Iraqi counterattack in that area had also been "defeated."

On the Iraqi side, a communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio asserted that Iraq repulsed an Iranian attack in the east Al-Basra sector, inflicting a "number" of casualties upon the Iranians.

Libya

Information Secretary Muhammad Sharaf al-Din al-Fayturi indicated that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi may not attend the forthcoming Arab summit conference, asserting in a statement to the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD* cited by QNA that it is "not important" whether Al-Qadhdhafi personally attends the meeting. What is important is the convocation of the summit, not who will represent Libya, Al-Fayturi maintained. In another development, JANA announced the arrival in Tripoli of an Iranian delegation headed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Revolution Guards Corps Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust, citing Velayati's statement that the visit is aimed to demonstrate Iran's support for Libya against the "U.S.-Atlantic aggression." The Libyan agency also denied as a "fabrication" reports that Liberians in Libya have been subjected to "acts against their person." The denial followed Monrovia Radio ELWA's 25 April disclosure that two Liberians in Libya had reported seeing fellow Liberians being tortured to death and executed by firing squad.

In Turkey, Ankara radio announced that a state security court will try five Libyans, three of them in absentia, on charges relating to the attempt to bomb the U.S. officers' club in Ankara.

Bahrain-Qatar Territorial Dispute

Bahrain and Qatar have responded to urgent efforts by Saudi Arabia and other GCC states to contain the conflict over Fasht al-Dibal and have expressed their desire for a rapid settlement, the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ* reported. In Riyadh, the Saudi cabinet discussed the Gulf situation in light of Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan's recent visit to Qatar and Bahrain, the information minister disclosed in a statement reported by Riyadh radio. The Qatari defense minister visited Riyadh the evening of 28 April, according to the radio. The Kuwaiti foreign minister expressed confidence that Saudi Arabia will be able to settle the Bahraini-Qatari dispute, which he described as a "passing cloud," KUNA reported.

Israel

Talks With Jordan — Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' office has been informed that the Jordanian king "is angry" at recent remarks made by Peres regarding "secret contacts" between the two countries, Jerusalem radio reported. The king's aides, the radio reported, asserted that the Jordanian monarch views Peres' statements as damaging his position prior to the Arab summit, and disclosed his opinion that there is "no substance" to the prime minister's contentions. Radio Monte Carlo cited denials by "informed" Jordanian sources on the existence of such contacts, who maintained that the Israeli "allegations" are aimed at "undermining the improving relations" between Jordan and Syria. Nevertheless, "sources" in Jerusalem acknowledged that "recent" contacts have been held with Jordan, although revealing that they have thus far yielded no "tangible breakthrough," adding that Jordan has moved "very hesitantly," according to *THE JERUSALEM POST*.

French Reactor to Iraq — Jerusalem radio divulged that Peres was informed during his recent talk with his French counterpart that France "might sell" a nuclear reactor to Iraq. Peres, while hypothesizing on the possibility of an Israeli purchase of a French reactor, which would produce energy "only under the appropriate supervision," alleged that an Iraqi reactor would "produce problems, not energy," the radio added.

Syrian Incidents Denied — The IDF spokesman rebutted a report published in the Toronto paper *TORONTO STAR* 27 April on alleged "local firing incidents" on the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria, *HA'ARETZ* reported. The military spokesman declared that there have been "no" such incidents, and that activities in the area are "absolutely routine."

Terrorist Attack Aborted — Jerusalem televison reported on an "aborted" attempt by three Syrian Army deserters recruited by Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah organization to "attack" a kibbutz on the Lebanese border, noting that the three were arrested in a Lebanese village 3 weeks ago.

PLO

The issue of secret contacts between Jordan and Israel is a "serious" matter which the PLO will raise at the forthcoming Arab summit or "on the Arab level" if the summit is not held, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated in remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo following his talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The issue was one of the

main topics in 'Arafat's talks with Mubarak, the radio said, and the PLO leader will also raise the matter at the PLO Central Council meeting in Baghdad 29 April. Baghdad Voice of PLO also commented on the issue, asserting that Israel is disseminating reports of such talks in order to "frighten and terrorize" the PLO and to pressure the organization into renouncing its "principled national constants."

As for the PLO's internal problems, Radio Monte Carlo noted that dissident Fatah official 'Atallah Muhammad 'Atallah chaired a "Fatah Supreme Military Council" meeting in Amman which repudiated the recent PLO decision to expel him and which adopted the demands of 'Atallah's "corrective movement." In Cairo, 'Arafat dismissed 'Atallah's movement as "too insignificant to affect the revolutionary march," Radio Monte Carlo noted.

In another development, Sabri al-Banna's Fatah Revolutionary Council claimed responsibility for the 27 April murder of a Briton in Jerusalem, according to AFP, which said the claim was made in a letter received in Beirut.

Syria

In a banquet speech in Belgrade, transmitted by the Yugoslav press agency TANJUG, President Hafiz al-Asad said the U.S. Administration "refuses to go to the root" of the Mideast problems in order to find "just solution," that will thwart international terrorism. Al-Asad told his Yugoslav hosts that Syria "sharply condemns terrorism," but he stressed the difference between terrorism and national resistance. Reporting on Al-Asad's meeting with his SFRY counterpart, TANJUG said the talks proceeded in an "exceptionally cordial and friendly atmosphere," focusing on bilateral cooperation and topical international issues.

On the internal situation, Syrian security sources cited by the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD* revealed that the authorities last week arrested two men caught while trying to plant bombs in Damascus, according to the *JORDAN TIMES*. The men disclosed information that allowed the authorities to apprehend 10 members of the gang which bombed several targets the previous week. The report claimed that the gang was hiding in an apartment rented by an Israeli intelligence agent, but Israeli sources cited by *THE JERUSALEM POST* denied that the Syrians have arrested Mosad agents.

Egypt

An Interior Ministry statement cited by Cairo radio denounced an unsuccessful attempt by a "few isolated employees" of a textile and spinning company to "incite" co-workers to stage a sit-in at a factory to "pressure" the authorities into dealing with a number of "private" demands. Nevertheless, the statement acknowledged that approximately 250 workers participated in the sit-in, which security forces were "compelled" to end.

Tunisia

President Habib Bourguiba initiated a "partial government reshuffle" including the appointment of a new interior minister, a former Army general, according to a statement by outgoing Interior Minister Mohamed Mzali broadcast by Tunis radio. Mzali, who retains his position as prime minister, announced the appointment of a new finance and economy minister; a new energy and mines minister; and a new industry and trade minister. "Informed" government sources told KUNA that the reason behind the reshuffle is Bourguiba's intention to "deal in a tougher manner" with the opposition, noting that Mzali had "advocated dialogue" and had been against the detention earlier this month of opposition leader Ahmed al-Mestiri.

In other developments, a statement by the minister of higher education and scientific research carried by Tunis radio revealed that Bourguiba approved measures to consolidate the university system in part to "eliminate the chaos" caused by some "extremist" groups in certain university establishments.

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Diplomats in Kabul Discount Karmal Dismissal

BK290840 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Islamabad, April 29 (AFP) — Western diplomats here Tuesday categorically dismissed reports that Afghan President Babrak Karmal had been ousted by his Soviet backers. President Karmal's absence, possibly due to illness, from a parade marking the eighth anniversary of the communist take over on April 27, had sparked the speculation about a dismissal.

In the latest such report, Pakistan's Urdu language daily *JANG* said Tuesday that Moscow had designated Asadullah Sarwari, a senior member of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan as Afghan president after "forcing Karmal to resign".

But diplomats today strssed that "despite uncertainity (about his health) evidently Babrak Karmal has not been summarily dismissed". The diplomats noted that Mr. Karmal, 57, had gone to Moscow on March 30.

Reliable sources, including some East European diplomats here, believe that President Karmal's health problem has prolonged his stay in Moscow. They believed he was suffering from a blood disease rather than a lung ailment as previously reported.

Leadership Thanks USSR Leaders for Greetings

LD270009 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Message of appreciation from the PDPA Central Committee, the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and the DRA Council of Ministers to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; A.A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, in response to their congratulatory message on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the April Revolution — announcer-read]

[Text] Dear Comrades: The DRA is celebrating the 8th anniversary of the April Revolution, which began the [words indistinct] fundamental construction of the social and political life of the Afghan people on the basis of the principles of social justice and equality among all nationalities, tribes, and clans.

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council and Government of the DRA, and all the people of Afghanistan, we express our appreciation and gratitude to you, to the CPSU Central Committee, and to the friendly Soviet people for your warm congratulations and wishes on this ceremonial occasion.

The decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress on the social and economic development of Soviet societv and on the creation of conditions aimed at achieving world peace have received widespread praise among the members of the PDPA and the DRA toilers. The successes and achievements of Soviet Union gladden our hearts, and we are forever united with you in our aims and desires for progress and a brighter future.

Like all peace-loving forces of the world, the people of our country warmly welcomed the program for the elimination of mass-destruction means and [words indistinct] of the comprehensive international security system which the 27th CPSU Congress approved. The proposal for a basic reduction in the [words indistinct] weapons and military forces in Europe which M.S. Gorbachev presented is a demonstration of the Soviet Union's peace-loving policy.

The people of Afghanistan are united with the PDPA in celebrating their national holiday. The party is confidently following the policy of accelerating fundamental improvements in all areas of our country's life and in broadening the social bases of the revolution. This policy is welcomed and supported across the vast strata of the people.

Despite the difficulties resulting from the continued aggression of world imperialism and regional reaction against the DRA, we look to the future with optimism. The friendship and cooperation relations between our peoples, parties, and states are expanding day by day.

The guarantee of our victory in building a new life and in defending the gains of the April Revolution derives from the Soviet Union's disinterested internationalist assistance and all-round support.

The successful results of the recent official visit of the chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers to the Soviet Union are another demonstration of the friendship and fraternity between our countries and our poeple. The agreements achieved during this visit give us firm confidence in the successful implementation of the plans for the DRA's social and economic improvement and development in the next 5 years and over the long term.

We once again confirm the stability and steadfastness of the DRA's foreign policy, which is based on the principles of the people's friendship, peaceful coexistence, nonalignment, the struggle for peace and security, and a desire to achieve a peaceful settlement of the situation around Afghanistan as soon as possible.

We wish the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the USSR Government, all the Soviet fraternal people, and you, dear comrades, further successes in realizing the decisions and plans of the 27th CPSU Congress and in the struggle to safeguard and consolidate peace on our planet.

Politburo Session Discusses Keshtmand Visit to USSR

LD252342 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held. The Politburo heard a report by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, on the results of his official visit to the USSR.

It was pointed out in the Politburo that during the talks which were held between Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA

Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, both sides had complete mutual understanding and common views on all the issues discussed, and this matter will play an important and outstanding role in the further consolidation of friendship, good-neighborliness and comprehensive cooperation between the DRA and the USSR.

The Politburo highly assessed the level of Afghan-Soviet cooperation and considered it very important for the expansion and consolidation of long-term cooperation in the economic, social, and cultural fields on the basis of mutual interest. The agreement on important guidelines for economic and trade cooperation and a protocol on economic cooperation for 1986-90 which were signed during the visit will have a great role in carying out of the planned tasks in the DRA socioeconomic plan for 1986-1990.

On the basis of Afghan demand, the Soviet side expressed its readiness to render assistance to the DRA in implementing the DRA socioeconomic development plan, especially in the fields of construction, expansion, and reconstruction and in (?commissioning) enterprises and projects for extracting and processing natural gas, fuel, solid mine material, chemical and light industries and other sections of industries; and in the construction of electricity stations and transmission lines for electricity; and projects related to agriculture, irrigation, transport, communications, public health, education, and culture; and in the acceptance of Afghan citizens for education in the USSR higher academic establishment.

The Politburo assessed with deep satisfaction the friendly relations, real goodneighborliness, and all-round cooperation between the two countries which is based on the principle of complete equality, mutual respect for the national sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and called the great and pure assistance of the USSR in the defense of DRA national sovereignty and political settlement as being of great political importance.

The Politburo affirmed the viewpoints of the both countries on the important international issues which were reflected in the joint Afghan-Soviet communique, and pointed out that the positions of the DRA and USSR on the assessment of the world's problems and possiblities for improvement were completely in accord.

The DRA expresses its full support for the gradual elimination of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction by the end of the present century as proposed by the USSR.

Nikolay Ryzhkov informed the Afghan side about USSR measures aimed at putting into practice the foreign policy aims contained in the statment of 15 January by the general secretary of CPSU Central Committee, in the political report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 27th Party Congress, and in the speech by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee at the 11th SED Congress.

The realization of the nuclear disarmament program which has been proposed by the USSR will make it possible to halt the arms race on the earth and will prevent its expansion into space. The situation in the world will improve fundamentally, and as a result a considerable amount of money should be allocated for development needs, including for the development of the underdeveloped countries. It was pointed out that the immediate cessation of nuclear tests at the present stage is of prime importance — the realization of which will open the way to free mankind from the nuclear arms. The DRA welcomed the constructive USSR measures aimed at solving the issue of nuclear tests. The unwillingness of the United States to stop testing nuclear weapons is a manifestation of the U.S. Government's intention based on the continuation of its adventurous militarist policy to expand the arms race and acquire military superiority. The DRA and the USSR resolutely condemn this policy.

Both sides expressed their firm belief in the need to strive to unite the efforts of all interested states for the consolidation of peace and safeguarding of security in Asia. Meanwhile, it was pointed out that at the present stage a joint search for a political solution to the conflict situation and on this basis the removal of military confrontation in the various regions of Asia are of particular importance. This will help to stabilize the situation in the region and create the necessary conditions for further measures toward transforming Asia into a region of peace and goodneighborliness.

The DRA and the USSR stressed the urgent need to reach a just and all-round settlement of the situation in the Middle East on the basis of the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab lands occupied in 1967, to realize the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state. Both sides pointed out that an international conference should be convened with the participation of all the involved sides, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Both sides expressed deep concern over the dangerous nature of the continuing war between Iran and Iraq. The consistent position of the DRA and the USSR for an early end to this war and the settlement of the dispute between the two sides by political means and [words indistinct] talks, was emphasized.

The meetings took place in a completely friendly atmosphere. Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand and his delegation had a glorious reception which indicates the friendly feeling of the people of the Soviet Union for the people of Afghanistan. The official and friendly visit of the Afghan delegation was widely reported in the Soviet press.

The PDPA Central Committee highly assessed the activities of the Afghan delegation led by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, during the official visit to the USSR.

The Politburo thanked the CPSU, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government for their internationalist assistance to the people of Afghanistan, and asked the DRA Council of Ministers to present specific measures for implementing the agreements. The communique on this friendly visit will be published in the press.

The Politburo also heard a report on the results of the work of the third conference of ulema and religious leaders and assessed the conference as a deep manifestation of the support of the ulema and religious leaders for the humane policy of the PDPA and the DRA state.

It was pointed out in the Politburo that the PDPA and the DRA respect, observe, and support the sacred religion of Islam. The ulema and religious leaders of the country will go forward to expand the social bases of the people's revolutionary sovereignty in the interest of all the country's Muslims. They will also continue the relentless struggle to realize right, truth, and justice.

The Politburo also heard a report by Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, on the participation of the DRA delegation in the work of the SED conference and assessed it as an outstanding example of the solidarity and consolidation of relations between the party, people, and governments of the DRA and the GDR. The Politburo confirmed the activities of the Afghan delegation in the work of the conference and meeting and talks.

Also, decisions were made in the Politburo on strengthening the country's defense capability and on several issues related to the DRA foreign and domestic policy.

PDPA's Barialay Receives Belorussian Delegation
LD271224 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, this afternoon met with Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Petrov, deputy chairman of the Council Ministers of Belorussian Republic, who came to Kabul at the head of that republic's delegation. During this meeting talks were held on the subjects of mutual interest. Gol Dad, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and F.A. Tabeyev, the Soviet ambassador were present.

According to another report, Mahmud Barialay and the Belorussian delegation, deputy chairman of Council of Ministers, and the Soviet ambassador in Kabul, visited the exhibition of the DRA artists union, which opened today.

Pakistani Allegations of Armed Forces Raids Rejected
LD281929 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1500 today, where the director of the First Political Section told him the following: The Pakistani Government, in order to divert the attention of its people from Pakistan's critical internal situation, alleges that the DRA Armed Forces violated (Baghicha) village near Chaman on 12 April 86, (Mata Tiga) on 15 April; (Mata Tiga) and (Sayd Khel) village in Khurram Agency and [name indistinct] village in Baluchestan on 17 April; (Mata Tiga) region on 19 April, and (Sayd Khel) region on 21 April.

Following a comprehensive investigation, the DRA Government has determined that these claims are groundless and completely false. It stresses that the Pakistani authorities should stop issuing such fabrications which only contribute to a deteriorating border situation.

Foreign Minister Departs for Geneva Talks
LD281657 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mohammad Dost left for Switzerland today heading the DRA delegation which will take part in the talks between the DRA and Pakistan that are scheduled to be held in Geneva on 5 May. Trade Minister Mohammad Khan Jalalar and vice ministers and advisers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present at Kabul International Airport to see them off.

Najibullah Presents Promotions to Army Officers
LD262125 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Several officers of the DRA Armed Forces who are being promoted to the rank of general in accordance with the decree of the Revolutionary Council (?Presidium) and in honor of the 8th anniversary of the April Revolution, were presented with the documents of their promotion yesterday morning by Najibullah, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, in the presence of the head of the Central Committee's Defense and Justice Department and the leadership delegation of the DRA Armed Forces.

Before the distribution of the promotion documents, Najibullah spoke in detail about the political and military situation in the country and explained that the (?honorable duties) of defense of the homeland and the revolution as well as struggle against the counterrevolutionary bands rests with the heroic Armed Forces of our country. He recalled their role in defending government authority, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of revolutionary Afghanistan. On behalf of the party and the government he congratulated those who are being promoted to the rank of general and presented them their promotion documents.

A BAKHTAR correspondent adds that the promotion documents of Colonel Muhammad Daud, commander of the 20th Division, who was also promoted to the rank of general, were presented to him yesterday afternoon in the Academy of Medical Science of the DRA Armed Forces by Major General Nazar Muhammad, DRA minister of defense, in the presence of Najibullah, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government, Najibullah congratulated him and wished him further victories in the accomplishment of the duties allotted him.

Brigadier General Muhammad Daud then expressed his thanks and appreciation for the attention paid to the DRA Armed Forces by the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Government, and by Babrak Karmal, chairman of the PDPA Central Commit-

tee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, the dear leader of (?the people) of Afghanistan. He gave an assurance that he will not spare any effort to implement the resolutions of the party Central Committee's plenums, particularly the 16th and 17th plenums, the 10 theses of the esteemed Babrak Karmal, and the statement of the DRA Revolutionary Council (?as well as) his duties to the April Revolution.

Rebel Band, Weapons Captured in Faryab Province

LD281819 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Quoting a source in the DRA's security forces, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that as a result of successful operations carried out in the villages and surroundings of Faryab Province, 46 members of the Nejat-e Milli band, including their ringleader Khalefa (?Zaman), were captured.

A recoilless rifle with 6 shells, 2 DShK's, 8 rocket launchers, 5 heavy machineguns, 39 kalashnikovs, 47 assorted weapons, 16 antipersonnel and antitank mines, 20 mine wiring systems, and a large number of antistate propaganda documents and leaflets have been seized from these murderers.

Also, recently a group of 31 people led by Samander, who previously belonged to the criminal Jamiyat band, have joined the state in the region of (?Qaryah-e) in Shirin Taqab District, Faryab Province.

BAKHTAR Reports on Land, Water Reform

LD290622 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, April 28, BAKHTAR — Since the beginning of the land and water reforms till the end of 1364 HS (ended on March 20, 1986) an area of 745,868 hectares of land was distributed to 329,767 landless and small land-holding peasants and poor nomads free of charge.

Distribution of material and technical assistance of the state such as the chemical fertilizers, improved seeds, insecticides and pesticides, agricultural mechanized and veterinary services, agricultural credits to peasants continued.

And for solving disputes arising from the implementation of land and water reforms, as many as 889 village peasant councils were set up in areas where the operational groups of land reforms function.

Accordingly 760,000 peasant families were exempted from the payment of afs 722 million of tax penalty for the years 1357-1359 (HS) and 1.1 million peasants and land owners from the payment of 2,564.8 million afghanis, tax penalty for the years 1360-1364 HS.

This exemption gave an average gain of over afs 23,000 to each peasants.

Democratic land and water reforms is continuing successfully stage by stage in 28 provinces and Khowst Division with 77 operational groups functioning.

Over 430 agricultural cooperatives with 69,000 members, and 212 consumer and handicrafts cooperatives having 73,000 members consisting of peasants, urban and rural craftsmen have been mobilized in the union through these councils.

In the course of 1364 (HS), as many as 28 handicrafts and consumer goods' cooperatives and 76 stores of these cooperatives were newly established and commissioned.

'Big Fire' Breaks Out in Oil Well Near Ahmadabad

BK260851 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] A big fire broke out this morning in a well of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC] near Ahmadabad. Fire brigade personnel and a number of fire tenders have rushed to the well No. GGS-I at (Navgang Naika) on the Ahmadabad-Bareja highway, about 30 km from Ahmadabad. The fire brigade sources received a distress call from the ONGC around 0900 this morning. The fire in the well is still raging. A number of ONGC officials have also rushed to the spot. The cause of the fire is still not known. Details are awaited.

Fire Discovered in Boiler

BK261309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Reports now say that the fire which broke out at the group gathering station of the ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] near Ahmadabad was in the boiler and the surrounding areas of the place. An early report said that fire broke out in an oil well. According to fire brigade sources, the blaze at the station at (Navgang Naika) was brought under control in half an hour. The cooling operation was undertaken for about an hour. Two fire fighters and five water tankers of the Ahmadabad fire brigade were pressed into service. The cause of the fire is now yet known.

Team To Visit Colombo 29 April for Ethnic Talks

BK251613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The minister of state for administrative reforms, Mr P. Chidambaram, and Government of India's special representative for Sri Lanka, Mr Romesh Bhandari, will be going to Colombo on Tuesday [29 April] for discussions with the Sri Lankan Government on the ethnic issue. This was officially announced in New Delhi today. The visit follows the talks between the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Hameed, and Indian leaders in New Delhi during the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau meeting last week. Mr S. Balakrishnan, legal adviser to the Ministry of Home Affairs, and Mr R. Mathai in the External Affairs Ministry will accompany the team.

Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, understands that the team will avail itself for the opportunity to seek further clarifications on the exact nature of the devolution of powers envisaged in the new Sri Lankan proposals relating to provincial councils. Colombo wants to give these councils powers similar to those given to the union territories in India.

Speaking at a function in New Delhi this evening, Mr Bhandari said the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka is very complicated and one should not have great expectations from the forthcoming visit. India wants that a political solution should be found which removes the grievances of the Tamils and fulfills their aspirations. The package, which has now been presented, may look attractive but they have to examine its contents.

Reportage on State Visit of FRG Chancellor

Arrives in Agra

BK270925 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] The West German chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, arrived in Agra today on a 4-day state visit to India. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including the federal minister for economic cooperation, Dr Juergen Warnke; state secretaries of Foreign Affairs Ministry, and top industrialists and bankers of West Germany. His wife is also accompanying him.

Dr Kohl will arrive in New Delhi tomorrow, and his visit is expected to pave the way for greater economic and industrial collaboration between the two countries. He will have official talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and also meet the president, Giani Zail Singh, and the vice president, Mr Venkataraman. Mr Gandhi will host a dinner in his honor tomorrow.

India's adverse balance of trade with West Germany will figure in the talks. The possibility of stepping up West German investments in India, setting up of joint ventures and the problems of terrorism will also be taken up for discussion. During his stay, Dr Kohl will also visit the Hindustan Aeronautics plant at Kanpur and will meet Indian industrialists.

Met in New Delhi by Gandhi

BK280950 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The West German chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, who is on a 4-day official visit to India, arrived in New Delhi from Agra this morning. Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi and his cabinet colleagues were among those who received him at the airport. Dr Kohl was given a ceremonial welcome, and contingent from the three services presented a guard of honor to him.

Later, Dr Kohl and his wife called on the president, Giani Zail Singh at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. They were with him for about 1/2 an hour. Dr Kohl invited the president to visit West Germany. He will also meet the vice president and will have talks with the prime minister later. Mr Gandhi will host a dinner in honor of Dr Kohl tonight.

Holds Talks With Gandhi

BK281614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The West German chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, said during his talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today that his country is ready to assist India in its plans for modernization. He referred to the presence of a number of eminent industrialists in his delegation and said there is immense scope for cooperation through private investment. Dr Kohl, now on a 4-day visit to India, arrived in New Delhi from Agra this morning. His talks with Mr Gandhi lasted 2 hours. Both sides expressed the desire to open a new chapter in bilateral

relations. Dr Kohl said West Germany attaches great importance to India. The two leaders exchanged views on the situation in their regions, East-West relations, and nuclear disarmament. Dr Kohl said his country's desire for disarmament is borne out of its location in the heart of Europe.

One of the subjects discussed by the two leaders was terrorism. It was made clear that India is opposed to all forms of terrorism, whether by individuals, groups, or states.

Delegations of the two countries met separately. The Indian side was led by the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, and the West German side by the minister of economic cooperation, Dr Juergen Warnke. It was agreed to raise the level of the joint commission to that of ministers. There were detailed discussions on economic, cultural, and commerical relations. It was decided to step up the cooperation in science and technology.

Feted by Gandhi

BK290347 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] India and West Germany have called for an end to terrorism. Speaking at the dinner hosted in honor of the visiting West German chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, described terrorism as the negation of all human values. He sought West German cooperation in curbing the activities of those who misuse the territory and hospitality of that country to incite terrorism in India. He underscored the urgent need to conclude a suitable extradition treaty between the two countries.

The prime minister said that the serious issue facing humanity is disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament. He said the 6-nation initiative aims at mobilizing and strengthening world public opinion to persuade nuclear weapon powers to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race. He appreciated West Germany's desire to drastically reduce nuclear weapons and to strive for their complete removal.

Speaking about the deteriorating international economic situation, Mr Gandhi urged participants in next week's Tokyo summit of the industrialized nations to think afresh on the need to move from rigid postures to a meaningful engagement of minds. Referring to the economic cooperation between the two countries, the prime minister said India looks forward to continued West German cooperation to move to becoming one of the best producers of industrial goods.

In his reply, Dr Kohl described terrorism as the plague of our time and said it should be pulled out by its roots. Expressing concern at the current international situation, he underlined the need for an arms control process through negotiations. With regard to North-South relations he called for a constant technical dialogue between the two sides.

Describing India as the leading member of the Nonaligned Movement, he said it has shouldered a great responsibility in world politic. He said his country shares India's concern over nuclear disarmament and appreciates its efforts to promote peace and stability. Welcoming India's economic policies, he said West Germany wants to play an active role in its modernization program.

Reportage on Visit of USSR Deputy Chairman

Arrives 27 Apr

BK271629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] The Soviet Union is keen on expanding its cooperation with India in different fields and also wants that Indian specialists and workers should take up construction of some civilian projects in the Soviet Union. The first deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, Mr Arkhipov, said this on his arrival in New Delhi this evening.

Mr Arkhipov, who is the cochairman of the India-Soviet Joint Commission, is leading a 26-member delegation of his country for a meeting of the commission beginning tomorrow. He was received at airport by the external affairs minister, Mr Bali Ram Bhagat.

Talking to All India Radio correspondent, Mr Arkhipov said the two sides will consider how to expand the range of cooperation in trade, industrial, economic, scientific, and technical fields. Both India and the Soviet Union have certain thoughts about the issues and their efforts will be to give concrete shape to them. He said the commission will review the working of various India-Soviet cooperation projects which were drawn up on a 5-year basis.

Echoing the sentiments of Mr Arkhipov, Mr Bali Ram Bhagat said that India-Soviet cooperation will not only be enlarged but also diversified.

Joint Meeting Begins

BK280952 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] The India-Soviet Joint Commission began its 10th meeting in New Delhi this morning. The external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, is leading the Indian side, while the Soviet delegation is led by the first deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, Mr Arkhipov. The commission will discuss ways to expand cooperation between the two countries in economic, industrial, scientific, and technical fields.

Addressing the inaugural session, Mr Bhagat said that the meeting is of special significance as the commission is holding its deliberations for the 1st time after signing of the two agreements last year. The commission will work on the modalities of implementing the two agreements. He said the meeting will have new impetus to the growth of bilateral relations and identify new areas for mutually beneficial cooperation. He suggested setting up of special mechanism to promote cooperation in construction of civil and industrial projects, not only in the Soviet Union but also in other countries.

Welcoming the suggestion, Mr Arkhipov said that a special subgroup should be set up for the purpose. He said a detailed program should be worked out for a 5-year period and it should also give a perspective up to the year 2000.

Economic Cooperation To Increase

BK281617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have agreed to increase cooperation in the exploration for oil in the Cambay and Kaveri basins. This was one of the decisions taken at the 10th meeting of the Indo-Soviet joint commission in New Delhi today.

The Indian side was led by the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, and the Soviet side by the first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr Arkhipov.

The meeting identified specific projects in the coal sector for cooperation. It was decided to undertake a feasibility report for an export-oriented bauxite project in Andhra Pradesh. The meeting was informed that Bharat Heavy Electricals have offered to supply 210 megawatt turbines and generators to the Soviet Union all for use in the third countries. It was agreed that trade between the two countries will be stepped up. It was emphasized that there is immense scope for Indian collaboration in construction works in the Soviet Union.

The commission was informed that preliminary talks have started for setting up three hotels in Uzbekistan with Indian collaboration.

It was also stated that agreement has been reached in principle on holding a festival of India in the Soviet Union and a Soviet festival in India during 1987-88.

Mr Bhagat had separate meeting with Mr Arkhipov. They reviewed Indo-Soviet relations and reiterated the commitment to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

12 Leaders Resign from Akali Dal Faction

BK280256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Twelve leaders of the Akali Dal led by Mr Joginder Singh have resigned from the party. In a joint statement in Amritsar, they said that this is because of what they called the anti-Panthic [religious] role of Mr Joginder Singh. Those who have resigned include the party advisory committee member, Mr Toga Singh, and the Bhatinda District unit general secretary, Mr Baljit Singh.

New Policy Advisory Committee Established

BK261509 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] A high-powered Policy Advisory Committee has been set up at the center with Mr G. Parthasarathy as chairman. It will replace the Policy Planning Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The new committee will provide an analytical background to India's world views and assess major developments to ensure that the country's responses are purposeful and within the framework of an integrated national policy. It will make periodic assessment of potentially critical situation so that the policy-making process is able to anticipate problems. The chairman of the committee will be associated with the framing of current policies. He will perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the prime minister from time to time.

Apart from Mr Parthasarathy who will continue to have cabinet rank, the committee consists of the minster of state for external affairs, the minister of state for internal security, the minister of state for defense research and development, a cabinet secretary, Prof Sukhomoy Chakraborty, Mr K. Subrahmaniam, Mr G. C. Saxena, and Mr A. K. Damodaran. In addition, there will be special invitees depending on the topics being discussed.

Khamene'i Denies U.S. Arms Smuggling Allegations

LD281143 Tehran IRNA in English 1112 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Zahedan, Baluchestan va Sistan Prov., April 28, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday refuted the recent allegations of Western media that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been smuggling in arms from the U.S.

President Khamene'i who arrived here Monday morning for a tour of the province, further told reporters that once in a while Western media in order to fill their space, print such accusations against Iran. "People of the world are aware that we have various sources to meet our arms need, the most important of which is the innovation and creativity of the Iranian craftsmen." Another source of our weapons, he told reporters, is seizing munition from the enemy.

Most portions of the arms seized are used by the Islamic Forces of Iran against the Iraqi aggressors. "Of course, we get arms from the world market," he added. A country which is engaged in a war, he told reporters, must obtain the arms it needs to repel the enemy and Iran purchases them from those countries which it considers suitable.

However, he stressed, allegations such as arms purchase from Israel and so on, are totally unfounded and those behind such claims know well that no one in the world would take them serious.

On the recent statements of the U.S. President, to the effect that if necessary his government will attack Iran, President Khamene'i said that such threats were empty. Our nation, he added, are not affected by such threats. When the Iranian nation is engaged in a direct confrontation with the enemy, it would deal a heavy and crushing blow and the U.S. is no exception.

The president is accompanied by his adviser Mostafa Mir-Salim, Minister of Construction Jihad Bizhan Namdar Zanganeh, gendarmerie commander Colonel Sohrabi and several other officials.

The president told IRNA at the airport that his trip aimed at meeting people of the province which is one of the deprived areas of the country, neglected under the former regime. He further added that in his talks with local officials, he will discuss problems of the province.

Jordanian General on Military Aid to Gulf States

LD281630 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] London, April 28, IRNA — A senior Jordanian military official has said that in case the Iraqi war against Iran spilled into Kuwait and other southern Persian Gulf states, any request for assistance by them would be "considered sympathetically."

General Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, the Jordanian Army's commander-in-chief, also said in an interview with the London-based *JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY* (April 26) that Amman was always prepared to assist "brother" Arab states which sought assistance but would "not act as anyone's policeman in this area."

The total manpower of the Jordanian Armed Forces does not exceed 77,000 men. In its recent combat experience, Jordanian units sent to help Iraq's war against Iran were annihilated and many Jordanian soldiers were taken captive.

Gen. Shakir who is one of King Husayn's closest advisers, was director of operations in the massacre of Palestinian guerrillas in the 1970 "Black September" campaign against the Palestinians living in Jordan.

Three years earlier, the incompetence of the forces under his command in the West Bank led to the occupation of the area by the Zionist forces in the Arab-Israeli war.

In response to a question by the British defence weekly, General Shakir who is considering British and French offers for the sale of a considerable number of combat aircraft, said "We would be happy to undertake any such exercise that would enable the British troops, or other NATO troops, to exercise in Jordan."

Reportage on Visit of Burkinabe Minister, Delegation

Arrive in Tehran

LD252125 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mr Guissou, the Burkinabe minister of external relations and cooperation, arrived in Tehran tonight at the head of a delegation. He was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by Foreign Minister Velayati. Commenting on the aims of this political delegation's visit, Mr Velayati said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Velayati, what are the aims of Mr Guissou's visit to Iran?
[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The minister of external relations and cooperation of the revolutionary country of Burkina Faso, a West African country, is making this visit following previously announced wishes by the Islamic Republic and his own reciprocal desire to embark upon such a trip. [end recording]

Received by Velayati

LD262052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Burkinabe minister of external relations and cooperation, Basile Laetare Gissou, who is currently visiting Tehran, met with Foreign Minister Velayati today. During the meeting, Guissou said: Iran and Burkina Faso are fraternal and revolutionary countries. As far as the enemies of the revolution are concerned, there is no distinction between the two because they are trying to divert the revolution in Iran and in Burkina Faso.

Explaining his country's potential, the Burkinabe minister of external relations and cooperation said: When the French ruled our country they did not allow us to make use of this potential in the interests of the people. In conclusion, he requested the establishment of an Islamic Republic embassy in Burkina Faso,

alluding to it as a big stride toward the expansion of bilateral relations.

Afterwards, Foreign Minister Velayati said: Since the revolution we have tried to expand our relations with the Third World countries, particularly those in Africa. Having explained post-revolution achievements in Iran, Velayati said: We are prepared to cooperate with you in technical and economic fields, as well as sharing our experiences of the past 7 years.

Meets With Khamene'i

LD271250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Basile Guissou, minister of external relations and cooperation of Burkina Faso, met President Khamene'i and delivered a written message from his country's president. In his message, chairman Thomas Sankara expresses the full support of his government and people for the revolutionary Iranian people in aborting imperialists' plots which aim to destroy the Islamic revolution of Iran and called for the expansion of bilateral friendly relations in order to perpetuate their common struggles against the superpowers.

President Khamene'i expressed his gratitude for the message, saying: The views your country's chairman expressed about our country and revolution are, in fact, indicative of the closeness of views on a great many principles and fundamental stands of both countries. These views presage a favorable future in bilateral relations. The president added: Your country enjoys a progressive and anti-arrogance system in Africa. This is significant for that continent; for today, the United States is bent on expanding its influence in the African Continent. Consequently, the presence of a progressive and anti-arrogance regime can have a great influence on African nations. Concluding his remarks, he expressed the hope that the stands taken by Burkina Faso would further strengthen such a system in the African Continent.

Musavi, Guissou Confer

LD271952 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA — Visiting Burkina Faso's foreign minister Basile Laetare Guissou met Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Sunday and expressed his country's interest in expansion of relations with Iran. During the meeting Foreign Minister Guissou referred to the difficulties created by foreign powers for his country and said "We are optimistic about the future because we have a history of struggle like the Islamic Republic."

Prime Minister Musavi in return said that problems of the Third World stem from colonialism but, he added, a country which relies on the power of spiruality and that of its people can represent an independent policy. Musavi said Iranian presence in [words indistinct] has thwarted all the enemies' conspiracies and this proved the degree of success an independent system depending on people's power can attain.

Velayati Interviewed Before Leaving for Syria, Libya

LD281201 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Interview with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on 28 April by unidentified correspondent; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] Having seen off the minister of external relations and cooperation of Burkina Faso, Foreign Minister Velayati, heading a high-ranking political delegation, left for Libya and Syria. He is accompanied by Minister of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Rafiqdust, as well as a number of our country's political officials.

[Begin recording][Question] Now that you have seen off Burkina Faso's minister of external relations and cooperation, you are leaving for Syria and libya. Would you please tell us about the objectives of these visits and their implications at the world level in the aftermath of U.S. air strike against Libya and her threats directed against the Islamic Republic and Libya?

[Velayati] Considering that the three countries of Syria, Iran, and Libya are the targets of repeated attacks by the United States and her collaborators, it becomes necessary for us to have closer contacts and exchange views and expand our cooperation, for we are fighting imperialism from a single trench. The type of hostility displayed against us is very similar.

In Libya, our Libyan brethren have been the target of direct U.S. attack. In Syria too, our Syrian brethren have been invaded by a U.S. agent in the region, namely, the usurping regime ruling over Palestine. Israel, a U.S. proxy, consistently threatens Syria. As for the Islamic Republic, the regime ruling over Iraq launched its invasion against us at the behest of global imperialism. Furthermore, the supporters of that regime continue to provide it with aid in order to apply further pressure on the Islamic Republic.

These similiarities as well as others, considering our common goals and common struggles against Zionism and its benefactors, necessitate that we consult each other, particularly during sensitive periods.

In view of the fact that over the recent days, Libya in particular was exposed increasingly to political, psychological, and military attacks, it becomes necessary for us to stay on the side of our Libyan brethren and demonstrate in practice that we are always together under any circumstances and that we help each other to fight our common enemies. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Velayati, Delegation Visit Libya

For JANA coverage of the visit to Libya by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Minister of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps Rafiqdust, including a statement issued upon arrival and talks held with officials, see the North Africa section of the 29 April Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

IRGC Kills 200 Iraqis

LD271832 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA — In combat operation launched by the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps in the Val-Fajr-8 theater in Al-Faw region of Iraq Sunday morning 200 Iraqi troops were reportedly killed.

According to the Khatam ol-Anbiya' joint army-IRGC headquarters, the Islamic combatants of Iran attacked enemy positions on the strategic salt factory axis in the region and also destroyed large quantities of enemy weaponry and bunkers.

Iraqi Counteroffensive 'Defeated'

LD281225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Telephone dispatch by unidentified correspondent]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Rain, wind, storms and the resistance put up by the soldiers of the Lord of the era, may God speed his coming, caused the enemy's futile counteroffensive launched in Majnun Islands, this morning, to be completely defeated.

The Iraqi regime's warmongers, having suffered defeat in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, and having lost Al-Faw, are resorting to any means to boost the morale of their defeated forces. They have launched a propaganda campaign about new territories gained and new victories achieved — all baseless claims — and this morning began a counteroffensive along the two central and western axes of the Majnun Islands using their amphibious forces. Ten enemy boats that intended to go around and approach the front line of the forces of Islam, were confronted by the alert and vigilant forces of Islam. Once informed of this move, the courageous combatants of Islam attacked the Iraqi forces, first aiming at two enemy boats and setting them on fire, as a result of which the two boats blew up along with the crew and ammunition on board. Having seen and heard the terrible fire and explosion, the crew of the other boats were frightened, lost their determination and tried to escape. But the mortar and artillery fire of the forces of Islam inflicted more casualties on the enemy.

Simultaneously, Iraqi infantry units tried to infiltrate the positions of our forces along one of the dirt roads on Majnun Islands. But they were confronted with the alert and resistingblasphemy fighters of Islam and having suffered heavy casualties, they were forced to flee and retreat. The Iraqi military commanders who had promised to recapture Al-Faw today, disheartened and realizing that they had not succeeded at the Majnun Islands and had not destroyed even one position of the Iranian forces, sent their disorganized, frightened, and defeated forces toward the same objectives again at 0300 hours. This occurred during a rainstorm that began at 1900 hours the night before and had worsened at midnight, disrupting the traffic of their forces and boats.

Once again the blessings of God and his support in the shape of wind, rain, and storms in the region, together with the steadfastness of the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran, defeated the second offensive of the Iraqis. Leaving behind many corpses on the road and in the waters of Hawr al-'Adhim, and losing large numbers of weapons, the Iraqi counteroffensive ended.

Hoping for more courageous acts for the warriors of God and more volunteers for the warfronts and the blessings of you, the Muslim ummah, the correspondent of the Central News Unit on the southern fronts in Khuzestan

'Hundreds' of Iraqi Casualties

LD281626 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Ahvaz, April 28, IRNA — An Iraqi attack on the Southern Majnun Island was repulsed Monday night with a counter-offensive that left hundreds of Iraqi casualties, said a military commander here. Stormy weather helped Iranian defenders when it blew sand and dust in the eyes of the incoming troops, said to be two divisions of Iraq's Third Army. "The alert of the Islamic forces and the use of offensive tactic in the face of incoming forces caused the enemy to suffer heavy casualties and leave the operational region" the commander said.

Iraq has been reporting assaults on the southern Majnun, one of the two man-made islands in marshlands bordering the two countries. But the commander said the attacks have been "an effort to create propaganda base and compensate for defeats in the Val-Fajr-8" war theater further south. "The extraordinary resistance of the Islamic forces and their combat alertness forced the enemy to pull back with hundreds of casualties and no achievements" said the commander.

He said "Heavy storm started in the face of enemy forces. It created difficulties in their sinister plans. Ba'th troops were lost amongst sand and dust. The units lost communication and organization".

Islamic forces of Iran captured oil rich Majnun Islands over two years ago. Iraqi efforts to recapture the area have been defeated.

Communique No 2,454

LD281740 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA — Iran's jet fighters pounded Iraqi troop concentration centers in Sharhani region east of Iraq at 2:15 GMT Monday inflicting considerable casualties on them. All planes returned to their bases safely, according to a military communique here.

Communique number 2454 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said Iranian navy inspected a merchant ship in Strait of Hormuz Sunday. The ship was permitted to continue voyage once it was known she carried no Iraqi-bound goods.

Iranian combatants strongly beat back latest Iraqi futile attack in southern Majnun Island at 23:30 GMT Sunday, the command said.

In Western fronts Muslim combatants strengthening their defensive positions, dispatched patrols and checked Iraqi movements. They also prevented Iraqi vehicle movements in the region by their mortar and artillery fire, the communique said.

Elsewhere the command said over the past 24 hours exchange of fire continued sporadically in western fronts which was more intense in Sumar and Mehran. Five group bunkers and observation posts as well as two military vehicles and a munitions depot of Iraqi forces were destroyed and a number of them were killed or wounded.

Islamic combatants in northwestern fronts checked Iraqi infantry and armoured activities destroying several gun emplacements and killing or wounding a number of them, said the communique. Extensive fire of the Iranian anti-aircraft units thwarted Iraqi air raids on the operational regions.

Over the past 24 hours the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was subjected to Iraqi long-range artillery fire during which 24 houses were damaged, said the command.

Severe Fighting in Al-Faw Area

GF290457 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] According to the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Joint Operational Headquarters, the brave soldiers of the Army of Islam last night staged a three-pronged attack from strategic points to destroy the Zionist enemy's forces. The successful attacks were launched from the areas of Al-Faw-Basra, Al-Faw-Al-Bihar, and an area north of the salt factory. This is a continuation of the "Val-Fajr-8" area of operations.

By rushing the positions of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces, they delivered heavy casualties and damages to the Zionist enemy. The results of this successful operation will be announced in the next Khatam ol-Anbiya' communique for the brave Islamic ummah.

'Blitz Offensive' Launched on Al-Faw

LD290554 Tehran IRNA in English 0552 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA -- The Islamic forces of Iran in a blitz offensive attacked Iraqi troops in three strategic axis on Al-Faw-Basra, Al-Faw-Al-Bihar, and north of the salt factory, Monday night. The Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and damages during the Monday night offensive.

Iraqi Troops Captured

LD290935 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Al-Faw, April 29, IRNA — Some 25 Iraqi POW's captured in the course of the Monday night blitz on Iraqi troops in Al-Faw Peninsula, were transferred behind the fronts Tuesday morning. Injured Iraqi POW's have been sent to medical centers for treatment.

A number of Iraqi POW's transferred behind the front told IRNA that the attack of the Islamic forces of Iran caught them by surprise. They said the attack paralyzed Iraqi forces to the extent that they could not embark on any action. The attack, carried out in continuation of Val Fajr-8 offensive, coded "Ya Mahdi Saheb al-Zaman" after the name of the 12th imam of the prophet's (Saw) household, was launched in three axis of Al-Faw-Basra, Al-Faw-Bihar, and north of the salt factory.

Reports said that so far over 4,000 Iraqi soliders have been killed or injured, a large amount of their ammunition destroyed and four brigades smashed.

'4,000 Iraqi Troops' Killed

LD290750 Tehran IRNA in English 0746 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA — Over 4,000 Iraqi troops from various brigades were killed and a large amount of Iraqi military equipment were destroyed by the Islamic forces of Iran in an attack carried out in continuation of Val-Far-8 offensive in Al-Faw Peninsula Monday night. The attack was launched in three axis of Al-Faw-Basra, Al-Faw-Al-Bihar and north of the salt factory.

Latest reports from operational theater said that the Islamic forces of Iran, after advancing more than two kms in the peninsula, are now fortifying their positions.

4 Iraqi Brigades Destroyed

LD290821 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Al-Faw, April 29, IRNA — In a blitz on the Iraqi troops in three axis in Al-Faw Peninsula Monday night, the Islamic forces of Iran destroyed four Iraqi brigades and killed or wounded over 4,000 Iraqi soldiers. The attack, carried out in continuation of Val-Fajr-8 offensive, was launched in three Al-Faw-Basra, Al-Faw-Al-Bihar and north of salt factory, smashing brigades 2, 420, 412, and 802 of the Iraqi Army. [sentence as received] Meanwhile, the Islamic forces of Iran captured a great number of Iraqi forces and destroyed a large amount of their light and heavy weapons.

The forces of Islam have fully established their positions in the operation theater and are checking any enemy movement. The surprise attack has paralyzed the Iraqi forces.

'Hundreds' of Iraqis Killed

LD290916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0847 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Please pay attention! According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center of joint operations

of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 2115 last night the self-sacrificing combatants of Islam began a successful operation along the "Val-Fajr-8" operational zone, code named "Ya Mahdi ya Sahib al-Zaman," and brought new victories to the ever-victorious ummah of Islam.

During this victorious operation, which was staged along the strategic Al-Faw-Basra road, hundreds of enemy troops were killed and large quantities of the equipment of the Ba'thist, Zionist forces of Saddam were set on fire.

The relentless battle of the forces of Islam still continues, while being inspired by the auspicious name of the Lord of the Ages, the promised Mahdi, God speed his auspicious advent.

Further Details

GF290855 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 0848 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, attention, attention. According to the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Joint Operational Headquarters, the sacrificing warriors of the Army of Islam at 2115 last night [1745 GMT] started a successful operation along the "Val-Fajr-8" area of operations with the holy secret code of "O Mahdi." They have brought new victories for the ever-victorious ummah of Islam.

During this successful operation, which was carried out on the road from Al-Faw to Basra, hundreds of enemy troops were killed and a large amount of the weaponry belonging to Saddam's Ba'thist Zionist army was set on fire.

The ever-strong struggle of the warriors of Islam, continues with the holy name of the Mahdi — may God expedite his return.

Iraqi Command HQ Taken

LD290929 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Al-Faw, April 29, IRNA — The Islamic forces of Iran seized an Iraqi command headquarters on Al-Faw-Basra axis in the course of their blitz on Iraqi troops Monday night. The attack, code named "Ya Mahdi", launched at 21:15 hours local time (17:45 GMT), in three Al-Faw-Bihar and north of salt factory axis. [sentence as received] It inflicted heavy casualties and damages on the Iraqi forces, latest reports put the number of casualties as high as 4,000.

Meanwhile, four Iraqi brigades were smashed and large amount of their light and heavy weapons were destroyed by the forces of Islam. Amny Iraqi forces were captured, 50 of whom have so far been transferred behind front and the rest will be transferred gradually.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' Communique No 2

LD291128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Communique No 2 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, issued 29 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. There is neither might nor strength, but in Almighty God. [Koranic verse] O Mahdi, O Lord of the Era! O we brave ummah of Islam! O zealous and selfless nation!

At the same time as the ceremonies marking the auspicious birthday of the Lord of the Era, the remnant [baqiyat] of God, may God hasten his lofty advent, during a victorious operation which began at 2115 last night with the holy codename of "Ya Mahdi Ya Sahib al-Zaman," may God hasten his lofty advent, the brave defenders of the Islamic revolution succeeded in advancing "Val-Fajr-8" operational zone along the strategic Al-Faw-Basra highway thus liberating many kilometers of enemy positions in this sector. They hoisted the proud flag of dear Islam in this region.

During this victorious operation, the forces of Islam killed or wounded more than 4,000 Iraqi troops. The forces of Islam also captured a large number of the enemy troops, and so far 75 of them have been taken behind the frontlines.

During a heavy battle, the fighters of the army of monotheism also succeeded in liberating four important strategic ravines [galugah] used by the Iraqi forces north of the "Val-Fajr-8" operational sector; and by capturing these ravines, they surrounded several destroyed battalions from 4 enemey brigades. [sentence as heard] Also during this operation, the 48th Infantry Brigade of the Iraqi Armed Forces, which was encircled at the start of last night's operation, was completely destroyed thanks to the attack of our forces.

The combatants of Islam also surrounded and fully captured the command headquarters of the enemy forces in the northern region of the "Val-Fajr-8" operational zone along the strategic Al-Faw-Basra axis.

An intruding enemy plane, which was trying to provide air cover for Saddam's Ba'thist-Zionist forces, hit by the fire of the warriors of Islam and crashed.

Right now, the selfless warriors of the Corps of Islam are continuing their relentless battle by encircling the 420th Brigade of the defeated Iraqi Army. May the prayers of the zealous ummah of Islam assist and open the way for their courageous sons. There is no help but from Almighty God.

[Signed] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters